

Claims

1. A method for distributing personalized editions of media programs, the method comprising:
 - accessing a media program at an editing device;
 - receiving a designation of at least one point of interest within the media program;
 - generating a bookmark defining each designated point of interest within the media program; and
 - transmitting at least one bookmark to a playback device having access to the media program, wherein the at least one bookmark is usable by the playback device to skip from one point of interest to another within the media program in response to a user command.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - accessing the media program at the playback device from a source other than the editing device;
 - receiving the at least one bookmark at the playback device; and
 - during presentation of the media program, skipping to a point of interest marked by the at least one bookmark in response to a user command.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein skipping comprises:
 - starting presentation of the media program at a position marked by a next bookmark in response to a user command received by the playback device.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein skipping comprises:

starting presentation of the media program at a position marked by a previous bookmark in response to a user command received at the playback device.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting comprises:

transmitting the at least one bookmark from the editing device to the playback device via a network.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the network is selected from the group consisting of a cable television network, a direct broadcast satellite network, and the Internet.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting comprises:

transmitting the at least one bookmark from the editing device to the playback device using a wireless technique.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting comprises:

physically transporting the at least one bookmark from the editing device to the playback device on a removable storage medium.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the removable storage medium is

selected from a group consisting of a magnetic disk, an optical disc, and a non-volatile flash memory card.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one bookmark is encapsulated within a program interface object (PIO).

11. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one bookmark comprises a time reference.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one bookmark comprises a non-time positional reference.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one bookmark marks a beginning point of a segment of interest within the media program.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one bookmark marks an end point of a segment comprising at least one advertisement within the media program.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein accessing comprises downloading the media program from a server.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein accessing comprises digitally recording the media program from a broadcast medium.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein accessing comprises accessing a removable storage medium including the media program.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the removable storage medium comprises a digital versatile disk (DVD).

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the playback device comprises an interactive television (ITV) system.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the editing device comprises an interactive television (ITV) system.

21. A system for distributing personalized editions of media programs, the system comprising:

a media interface component within an editing device that accesses a media program;

a point of interest designation component that receives a designation of at least one point of interest within the media program;

a bookmark generation component that generates a bookmark defining each designated point of interest within the media program; and

a bookmark transmission component that transmits at least one bookmark to a playback device having access to the media program, wherein the at least one bookmark is usable by the playback device to skip from one point of interest to another within the media program in response to a user command.

22. The system of claim 21, further comprising:

a media interface component within a playback device that accesses the media program from a source other than the editing device;

a bookmark reception component within the playback device that receives the at least one bookmark; and

a playback control component that, during presentation of the media program, skips to a point of interest marked by the at least one bookmark in response to a user command.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the playback control component starts presentation of the media program at a position marked by a next bookmark in response to a user command received by the playback device.

24. The system of claim 22, wherein the playback control component starts presentation of the media program at a position marked by a previous bookmark in response to a user command received at the playback device.

25. The system of claim 21, wherein the bookmark transmission component transmits the at least one bookmark from the editing device to the playback device via a network.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the network is selected from the group consisting of a cable television network, a direct broadcast satellite network, and the Internet.

27. The system of claim 21, wherein the bookmark transmission component transmits the at least one bookmark from the editing device to the playback device using a wireless technique.

28. The system of claim 21, wherein the bookmark transmission component stores the at least one bookmark on a removable storage medium to be physically transported from the editing device to the playback device.

29. The system of claim 28, wherein the removable storage medium is selected from a group consisting of a magnetic disk, an optical disc, and a non-volatile flash memory card.

30. The system of claim 21, wherein the at least one bookmark is encapsulated within a program interface object (PIO).

31. The system of claim 21, wherein at least one bookmark comprises a time reference.

32. The system of claim 21, wherein at least one bookmark comprises a non-time positional reference.

33. The system of claim 21, wherein at least one bookmark marks a beginning point of a segment of interest within the media program.

34. The system of claim 21, wherein at least one bookmark marks an end point of a segment comprising at least one advertisement within the media program.

35. The system of claim 21, the media interface component downloads the media program from a server.

36. The system of claim 21, the media interface component digitally records the media program from a broadcast medium.

37. The system of claim 21, wherein the media interface component accesses a removable storage medium including the media program.

38. The system of claim 37, wherein the removable storage medium comprises a digital versatile disk (DVD).

39. The system of claim 21, wherein the playback device comprises an interactive television (ITV) system.

40. The system of claim 21, wherein the editing device comprises an interactive television (ITV) system.

41. A system for distributing personalized editions of media programs, the system comprising:

means for accessing a media program at an editing device;

means for receiving a designation of at least one point of interest within the media program;

means for generating a bookmark defining each designated point of interest within the media program; and

means for transmitting at least one bookmark to a playback device having access to the media program, wherein the at least one bookmark is usable by the playback device to skip from one point of interest to another within the media program in response to a user command.